

GOALS, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES

The Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) aspires to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer-support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

The Idaho SILC's present Mission Statement was developed during the State Plan for Independent Living Planning Session April 29, 2004 and adopted at the SILC Quarterly Business meeting July 23, 2004. It states: The Idaho SILC's mission is to advocate for and achieve independence, choice, self-determination, equal access and equal opportunity for Idahoans with disabilities through systems change, policy involvement and public education. In developing the above statement, Council members committed to the following responsibilities:

- Develop, sign and submit, in cooperation with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. The SILC will monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- Support the centers for independent living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.
- Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, outreach to un-served and underserved populations, and work to expand and improve IL services.
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources to the SILC known as Attachment 2 in the 2005-2007 SPIL.
- Develop and pursue a public policy agenda that results in positive systemic change for people with disabilities.

BARRIERS

Idaho has unique attributes such as beautiful scenery, land that is sparsely populated and a sprawling geography. Although it is the 13th largest state in the union by size, the 2002 residence census figures show the Idaho total population at 1,341,131. This is a 28.5 percent population increase from the 1990 census. Rural areas cover 88.3 percent of the state where 36.2 percent of the total population reside. Changes in federal funding have shifted responsibility for many social services from the federal to state and local government levels and has increased pressure on state and local budgets in Idaho. This has increased the difficulty of providing quality social services. Economic difficulties in rural communities translate into increased problems for people with disabilities. Some barriers may be obvious, such as lack of ramped entrances for people who use wheelchairs, lack of interpreters or captioning for people with hearing impairments, or lack of Braille or taped copies of printed material for

people who have visual impairments. Transportation within and between cities either doesn't exist, is inconvenient, inaccessible, or is too expensive to use. Accessibility of housing, public buildings and businesses are inadequate. Personal assistance services, occupational, physical and cognitive therapies are often not available in the smaller communities or the service industry has too many people on their waiting lists to service all the needs; couple that with poor transportation facilities to get to the metropolitan areas for these services, and people tend not to receive the proper services.

Since the Idaho SILC's inception, it has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based.

Four initial focus groups were held at the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to gather input for the new three-year State Plan for Independent Living. Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) invited consumers to attend a session on February 3, 2004 in Caldwell and March 5, 2004 in Twin Falls, Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) on February 6, 2004 in Idaho Falls, and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) in Coeur D'Alene on February 24, 2004. The SILC also held a Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) all day planning session April 29, 2004. Council members voiced their concerns and priorities from people with disabilities in their communities. A second round of focus groups followed this to review and comment on the draft plan. Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) invited consumers to attend a session on May 13, 2004 in Boise, Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) on May 26, 2004 in Burley, and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) in Lewiston on May 17, 2004.

A compilation of priorities and common themes from the focus groups and the planning session are as follows: (1) increased availability of accessible transportation statewide, (2) increased availability of affordable, accessible housing statewide, (3) the enforcement of existing civil rights laws (4) expanded and affordable health care options, including affordable prescriptions, the funding of a Medicaid Buy-In program and insurance parity for mental health services.

VISION

It is the vision of the Idaho SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where people with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate people with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them. The road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systems change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer support and self-help groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach. Systems change includes further de-medicalization, de-institutionalization, strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. The SILC will continue to evaluate existing programs to determine their effectiveness, and then encourage redirection of resources to provide optimum opportunities for people with disabilities. The SILC will also work to promote greater program coordination in order to reduce inappropriate and

unnecessary regulatory requirements, which will allow the state to utilize a greater portion of its resources for services to individuals.

Part II – Performance Measures and Benchmarks 2007

Goal One: Promote and conduct activities that empower people with disabilities.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| In conjunction with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs), conduct a statewide conference to promote leadership development. | 250 participants at SILC state conference Statewide representation at conference | 80% of target attendance Participants from northern, southern, eastern and western parts of Idaho | Dedicate funding from the SILC budget for training implementation. Commit funding from the SILC budget to support the attendance of people with disabilities. Acquire additional funding from other sources. Retain a contractor to develop and organize the leadership conference. Provide training on the independent living philosophy to conference attendees. Present the concepts of leadership, empowerment and self-determination to conference attendees. Present information on working together in local communities to conference attendees. | Transportation and health issues of participants Weather Budget constraints/ Available funding |
| Continue the means for delivery of urgent information and immediate action by consumers and | Legislative updates distributed to SILC mailing and email lists statewide during and immediately following the | 10,000 legislative updates distributed | Through legislative updates, inform consumers, SILC members and interested parties of legislative actions affecting people with disabilities. | Budget constraints/ Available funding |

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| supporters. | <p>legislative session</p> <p>Coordinate with Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID) to identify priority legislative issues</p> <p>Submit 4 SILC articles to other publications</p> | <p>Legislative policy session held in late Summer/ Fall</p> <p>All CID members invited</p> <p>50% of target</p> | <p>Identify legislators who support independent living and communicate their support to consumers, SILC members and interested parties.</p> <p>Conduct a legislative policy session each year to identify priority issues.</p> <p>Identify other publications distributed statewide and submit SILC articles on relevant topics.</p> | |
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Goal 2: Reach out to unserved, underserved and minority populations.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| Reach out to the un-served and underserved populations in rural areas. | Identify existing groups that work with minority populations. | Contact at least 5 groups/organizations. | <p>Maintain networks with existing grassroots organizations related to disability issues.</p> <p>Coordinate with existing groups that work with minority populations.</p> <p>Further work to identify rural issues that are barriers to empowerment.</p> | Budget constraints/ Available funding |

Goal 3: Provide education and training on disability issues.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| Provide in-service training for two outside service organizations. | <p>4 SILC members are prepared to deliver presentations</p> <p>Identify 5 service organizations who might benefit from an in-service SILC training</p> | <p>2 SILC members deliver presentations</p> <p>At least 1 selected service organization targets Spanish speaking people as a service group</p> | <p>Enlist SILC members to deliver presentations to interested service organizations.</p> <p>Distribute information packets on independent living for outreach to service organizations and include a bi-lingual packet for Spanish speaking people.</p> | Budget constraints/ Available funding |

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Goal 4: Support projects that expand and improve independent living opportunities.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| Create flexible integrated self directed transportation options | Meetings with grass roots groups working on transportation. | Identify and participate in at least 2 meetings. | Increase availability of accessible Taxi cabs. Support grass roots organizing campaigns. | Funding limitations for public transportation Competition from other public transportation providers Taxi market demands and fluctuations Rural population base |
| Increase access to assistive technology and information technology | Assign staff person to conduct research. Write letters of support. | Write at least one letter of support, as requested. Staff person completes research and presents results to the SILC quarterly meeting. | Research and advocate for Idaho tax credit on assistive technology purchases. Support increased funding for IATP loan program. | Budget constraints/ Available funding |
| Advocate for people with disabilities within the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamp systems in Idaho. | Assign staff person to conduct research. | Staff person completes research and presents results to the SILC quarterly meeting. | Research income criteria to qualify for food stamps and cash assistance. | Federal guidelines and regulations |
| Support continued | Work with IDVR, ICBVI, | Annually | Advocate for additional state and federal | Availability of |

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| development of a network of centers for independent living throughout Idaho. | the CILs and the Idaho State Legislature for an adequate appropriation and continue to seek state general funds at a minimum of the current level for the operation of CIL satellite offices. | | <p>funding to bring all CILs and satellite offices to adequate funding levels.</p> <p>Use available resources for the provision of technical assistance which will benefit the CILs.</p> <p>Dedicate Title VII, Part B funding for the general operation of CILs.</p> <p>Work to develop additional resources to support special projects that may be implemented through CILs.</p> <p>Continue national efforts to increase distribution of funds to rural states.</p> | Federal and State Funds |
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Goal 5: Conduct activities that develop model policies for Idahoans with disabilities.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| Develop and implement a strategy that would increase/expand health care options. | <p>Write letters of support</p> <p>Distribute legislative alerts to interested parties through SILC email list</p> | <p>Write at least one letter of support, as requested.</p> <p>Distribute at least 100 alerts</p> | <p>Develop a fact sheet for medical professionals on how to best assist people who are applying for SSI/SSDI.</p> <p>Support Mental Health Insurance parity.</p> <p>Encourage private insurance to cover personal assistance services.</p> <p>Develop or support legislation that prevents discrimination in health insurance regarding pre-</p> | <p>Budget constraints/ Available funding</p> <p>Opposition from insurance and business representatives</p> |

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| | | | existing conditions and genetic testing. | |
| Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers. | Record anecdotal experience Update Needs Assessment | 90% of contacts recorded Every 5 years | Assess personal experience Consumers contact the SILC & advocates Update BSU Needs Assessment | Budget constraints/Available funding |
| Initiate the process of writing a 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). | Quarterly planning committee meetings Conduct 7 regional public input sessions Target 140 participants SPIL Completed | Begin planning process by target date of Spring 06 4 statewide initial sessions conducted by Winter 07 3 draft review sessions conducted by Spring 07 75% of participant target SPIL submitted Summer 2007 | The Planning Committee will meet and discuss a timeline for the process of SPIL completion. Schedule a full-day planning session, with a facilitator, to discuss and write the goals and objectives. Ask for statewide input through the Internet or during regional training sessions. Prepare a draft for final review with consumers, advocates, disability organizations, etc. Include people with disabilities who are unable to attend a meeting and who do not have access to the internet. | Budget constraints/Available funding Transportation issues for participants at regional sessions. |

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| | | | Evaluate effectiveness of strategic plan. | |
| Create a building code approval and enforcement process that follows the universal design model. | Wide representation and participation of stakeholders | Contact each Committee member at least twice and invite/confirm first meeting attendance | Reconvene the Committee on Statewide Accessibility Standards to discuss developing legislation that incorporates the universal and visitability models. | Budget constraints/Available funding Opposition |
| Prepare reports and make recommendations as necessary | Complete reports annually | Meet federal and state timelines each year | Complete 704 report Complete Annual Report | Unexpected report and deadline changes by federal and state reporting agencies |

Goal 6: Increase the awareness and understanding of the independent living philosophy in Idaho.

| Objectives | Performance Measures | Benchmarks | Strategic Activities | External Factors |
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| Create awareness about the independent living movement and self-advocacy in Idaho Schools. | Build support for legislation Identify stakeholders | Legislation developed by 2008 legislative session | Form a working committee including stakeholders to discuss and develop legislation. Develop and implement legislation that requires the independent living philosophy be included in transition services for all Idaho schools. | Bureaucracy in educational systems may delay or prevent implementation |
| Gather and disseminate independent living information | Identify relevant conferences and events for display booth | Display information in at least 5 events/conferences | Display booths at relevant conferences and training events. | Budget constraints/Available funding |
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